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## Attention: Medicaid Physicians, Pharmacies, FQHC, RHC, and Nursing Homes

Effective February 19, 2004, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will begin implementation of a Prospective DUR Therapeutic Duplication Edit for pharmacy claims. Therapeutic Duplication is the prescribing of two or more drugs from the same therapeutic class such that the combined daily dose increases the risk of toxicity or incurs additional program costs without additional therapeutic benefit. This edit will warn pharmacists when a claim is submitted for a systemically absorbed drug in the same therapeutic class or a non-systemically absorbed drug with the same route of administration as another drug in the patient's active medication history. The therapeutic duplication edit takes into consideration the exhaustion of previously dispensed medications by calculating the days supply and the dispensed date.

The therapeutic duplication edit will be implemented for the following classes of drugs.

Triptans

Anti-Psychotics

Anti-Hypertensives

Requests may be faxed, or mailed to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)**

**Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services**

**P. O. Box 3210**

**Auburn, AL 36832-3210**

**Fax: 1-800-748-0116**

**Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Override requests failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must submit a written letter of medical justification along with the override request form. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to Allyn Williford, Pharmacy Services Division at 334-242-5050. Questions regarding override procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

January 28, 2004



P.O. Box 241685  
Montgomery AL 36124-1685